CLAIMS

1.   A method for converting a physical document into an electronic document

comprising:

inserting one or more formatting commands into an initial electronic document;

converting said initial electronic document into a physical document;

scanning said physical document using a scanner to produce an electronic document wherein

said scanner is configured to interpret said formatting commands.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are fonts.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are font sizes.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are alignment tags.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are tabs.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are margins.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are table definitions.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are picture definitions.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of converting further comprises:

placing one or more bar codes into said physical document.

5

10.   A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein

configured to convert a physical document into an electronic document, said computer program

product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to insert one or more formatting

commands into an initial electronic document;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to convert said initial electronic

document into a physical document;

10   computer readable code configured to cause a computer to scan said physical document

using a scanner to produce an electronic document wherein said scanner is configured to interpret

said formatting commands.

11.   The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are

5   fonts.

12.   The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are

font sizes.

14

13. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are alignment tags.

14. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are tabs.

15. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are margins.

16. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are table definitions.

17. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are picture definitions.

18. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said computer readable code configured to cause a computer to convert further comprises:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to place one or more bar codes into said physical document.

15